

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 8, 11-12, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Padovani et al. (U.S. Application No. 10/318,489 "Padovani"). Claims 1-5 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Padovani in view of Farley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,553,032 "Farley"). Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Padovani in view of Farley as applied to claims 1-5 and 13-17, and in further view of Strawczynski et al. (U.S. Application No. 09/835,102 "Strawczynski"). Claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Padovani in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,572 "Kumar"). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Padovani in view of Strawczynski.

Claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 have been amended to clarify operations relating to the buffering of data in a central buffer and its distribution from the central buffer to distributed buffers. These amendments cause all pending claims to distinguish over the cited prior art. All claims are now allowable and a notice of allowance is courteously solicited. Please direct any questions or comments to the undersigned attorney at the address indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

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